Socio-Economic Conditions of Rural Women Agricultural Labourers of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal: A Case Study in Population Geography

SYNOPSIS FOR Ph.D. REGISTRATION IN GEOGRAPHY

(FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE)

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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE RESEARCH TOPIC:

Paschim Medinipur district is a mainly agriculture -based district of West Bengal. Agriculture depends on both male and female labourers in this district. Women agricultural labourers are the one of the most important pillars of our society. But they are deprived socially and economically. They are suffering from different types of health issues, lack of safety, mistreatment by society. So, it is a big problem of our rural society. Socio-economic condition of rural women agricultural labourers in Paschim Medinipur district is a big and relevant issues in our society.

STATE- OF- THE -ART:

India is an agriculture-based country and a larger part of its population is rural, West Bengal is not different from it. More than50% of its population live in the rural area. Paschim Medinipur district is situated in the south-west part of West Bengal. It has total of 21 blocks in this district like Daspur-I,Daspur-II,Debra,Ghatal,Pingla,Narayanghar,Chandrakona-I and Chandrakona-II etc. The economy of whole district mainly depends on agriculture. Gross cropped area is 379.94 thousand hectares in Paschim Medinipur. The total population of this district is 5913457 (Census 2011). Approx 87% of its total populations live in the rural area. Approx 34% of total women populations are agricultural labourers who work in field on daily wages basis. Therefore, agricultural productions depend on their labour contribution in the development of the economy of Paschim Medinipur. Agricultural women labourers are engaged themselves in agriculture and house hold services.Women agricultural labourers are deprived of their socio- economic positions inspite of their whole hearted devotion to work in the agricultural field as well as at home. They suffer from various health issues like Anemia, Malnutrition etc and also faced mistreatment by society. Women agricultural labourers are landless and educationally backward due to one way policy of gender in our society of Paschim Medinipur. They have no power to take important decision for her family and society. So, it is a major problem of the society as well as the economic development of Paschim Medinipur. Some related literatures of present study are as follows-

Dommati Devendra and Krishna reddy: 1 (2010) made a case study on the "Socio-Economic conditions of Agricultural Women Labour in Andhra Pradesh:

A case study of Karimnagar District", they compare the socio-economic conditions of women engaged as agricultural labourers in some randomly selected villages.Manas Mondal's (2013) in his article with the caption of "The Role of Rural Women in Agriculture Sector of Sagar Island, West Bengal, India", haveanalysed the role of rural women in agricultural sector of Sagar Island,West Bengal.Zubber Ahamed 3(2017) in his paper with the caption of the "Socio-Economic Condition of Agricultural labourers in Utter Dinajpur, W.B, India",have analysed that the socio-economic conditions of women agricultural labourers with the help of demographic characteristics in Uttar Dinajpur (West Bengal).Dr. R.H. Pavithru 4(2017) in his article titled, "Socio-Economic Condition of Female Agricultural Labour – with special Reference to Mandya District", has investigated the socio-economic condition of female agricultural labourers in Mandya District.Krushna Yadav, D.K. and M.L Revanna 5(2017) in their research article titled, "A study on socio-economic status of the Farm women of TumakuruDistrict of Karnataka State, India", have studied about the conditions of Farm women of Tumakuru District with the help of socio-economic parameter.Samir Show, 6(2018) in his article with the caption of "Female Participation in Agriculture of West Bengal: A District Level Micro Level Analysis", haveanalysed participation rate of women agricultural labourers on the basis of time in various district of West Bengal. On the basis of Probit Model, the condition of women labourers is described.Dr.P Suresh Babu and Dr, S Ganesan 7(2018) in their article entitled, "A Study on Socio-economic Conditions of Women Agricultural Labourers in Sivagangai District", have analysed the socio-economic conditions of women agricultural labourers of Sivagangai District by using different types of statistical tools.B.K.Agarwal and Pratibha Chaudhary 8(2019) in their article with the caption of , " An Analytical Study of Socio-Economic condition of Women Agricultural Labourers in Meerut District", haveanalysed the conditions of women labourers focused on their demographic characteristics.Dr.N.Krishnaveni 9(2020) in his article with the caption of the, "Socio-Economic conditions of Agricultural Women Labour in Tamil Nadu",to discuss the work status, role in agriculture, wage discrimination of agricultural women labourers.Rimmi Dutta and Jayanta Mete 10(2022) in their article, made a case study on the, "The Socio-Economic Status of Female of Sundarban Regions in West Bengal", and have analysed the quality of female life style in Sundarban, West Bengal.

Already these issues are studied in all over India as well as in West Bengal. So, it is necessary to discuss the socio-economic condition of women agricultural labourers of Paschim Medinipur in West Bengal.

PROBLEM TO BE INVESTIGATED:

- Women agricultural labourers are generally of landless category.
- They are of economically backward class.
- Educational status of women agricultural labourers is very poor.
- Women labourers are facing mistreatment by society.
- They suffer from lack of community safety and social support.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION AND MOTIVATION:

The main objectives of the present research work are as follow-

- To analyse the factors for determination of socio-economic conditions of women labourers.
- To analyse the socio-economic conditions of women agricultural labourers.
- To study the role of rural female agricultural labourers in rural economy.
- To study the problems of women agricultural labourers.
- To show the implementation of Govt. Welfare Schemes to female agricultural labourers.

Some reasons for motivation are given below-

- ✓ Good performance of women agricultural labourers in Paschim Medinipur.

- ✓ Female agricultural labourers are socio-economically backward comparison to men labourers.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES:

- In comparison to the educational position of male agricultural labourers is better than women agricultural labourers.
- Maximum women agricultural labourers are of landless category.
- Women agricultural labourers are playing important role for rural economy of Paschim Medinipur district.
- The main inconvenience of the development of women agricultural labourers is due to lack of proper education and social support**.**

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY:

Presently Paschim Medinipur district has 21 blocks. The research will be conducted within 4 blocks among 21 blocks. One village will be selected from each block, i.e., 4 villages will be selected within 4 blocks and data will be collected by 50 samples from each village. Random and purposive sampling methods will be applied for this sample selection. Women agricultural labourers are the main informants in this research work. The indicators of socio-economic conditions are income level, education level, social supports, community safety, wealth, financial security, family size and relationships of women agricultural labourers. The research work mainly depends on primary data from the study area. This research is based on descriptive, observational, statistical methods.

TENTATIVE CHAPTERISATION:

Introduction

Chapter-I : Geographical Background

Chapter-II : Sample study on rural women agricultural labourers of study area.

Chapter-III : Social, Economic and Demographic conditions of women agricultural labourers.

Chapter-IV : Role of rural women agricultural labourers in rural economy.

Chapter-V : Problems of women agricultural labourers.

Chapter-VI :Govt. policy for women agricultural labourers.

Chapter-VII : Suggestions for the development of women agricultural labourers.

Conclusion.

References.

Appendix

SOURCES OF DATA AND TOOLS TO BE USED IN THE COLLECTION OF DATA:

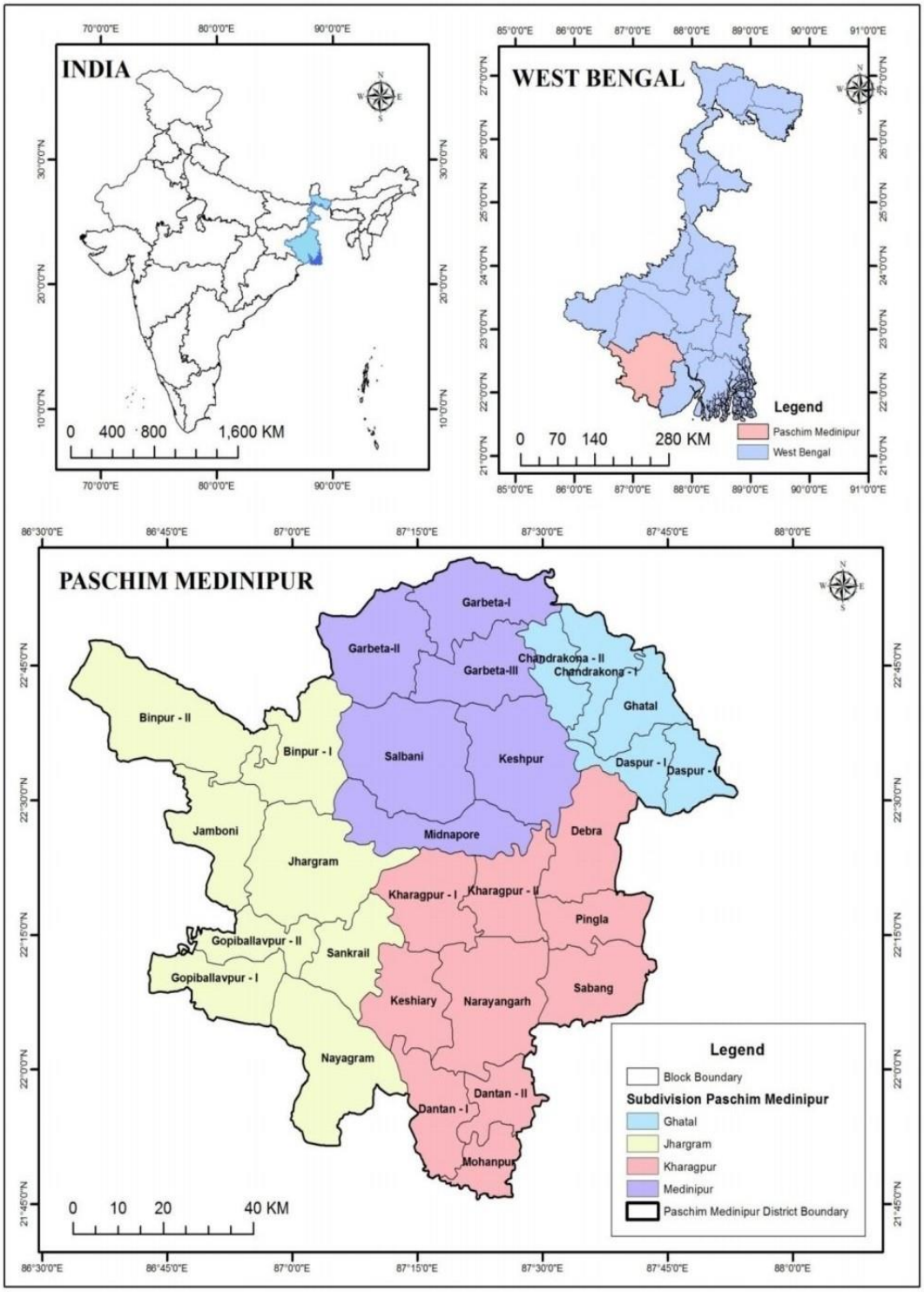
Primary and secondary data both will be used for this research work. Primary data will be collected from the field with the help of questionnaire, interview, observation and discussion tools. Secondary data will be collected from district statistical handbook, blocks, panchayet and district level Govt. office, Department of Agriculture (Govt. of West Bengal), Ministry of Human Resource (Govt. of West Bengal), Census of India. Published and unpublished data will be collected from different books Articles, research paper, magazine etc. Map can be taken from thematic maps prepared by NATMO and maps will be digitized with the help of GIS software tools.

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

Various statistical methods are used to analysis and processing the data. Different statistical testing methods will be used for hypotheses testing. Data will be analysed by SPSS software and Microsoft Excel.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

This study is highly significant because it discusses about the socio-economic condition of women agricultural labourers those who are presents in good proportion in Paschim Medinipur district. In the present context village women are deprived by socially and economically. This study is analysing their present problem and some strategy for their development. The backbone of agricultural economy depends on women agricultural labourers. They perform dual role simultaneously in house hold and agricultural work. In the present study enlightened the following matters e.g., detailed information, economy, pattern of expenditure and savings and problems of women agricultural labourers. They are suffering from social and economic problem. Female agricultural labourers are always neglected in the society. In the present study some suggestions are brought out which will help them for the development of their participation rate.



Source:

http://inet.vidyasagar.ac.in:8080/jspui/bitsream/123456789/5377/13/13_chapter4_Study%20area.pdf.

ITS RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT-DAY PROBLEM AND NEED TO OUR SOCIETY:

- By increasing the number of female labourers in agriculture, it is possible to be self-helped of rural women.
- To increase the social dignity and female welfare of women agricultural labourers.
- To remove the discriminatory status of society by development of socio-economic condition of women agricultural labourers.
- As per Govt. Directives several schemes are to be discussed among the agricultural labours for their development.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXISTING KNOWLEDGE:

This study will contribute an important role for the development of women agricultural labourers and also their security purpose. This research work will provide the different aspects of development like community safety, social support, education, income, access to good nutrition for women agricultural labourers in Paschim Medinipur district. In the present study enlightened the following matters e.g., pattern of expenditure & saving and also the problems of women agricultural labourers. Some suggestions will be given for the development of socio-economic conditions of women agricultural labourers.

FUTURE WORK:

On the basis of this study new projects may be adopted in future namely,

- Comparative study between socio-economic conditions of women agricultural labourers and women non-agricultural labourers.

- Comparative study between socio-economic conditions of men and women agricultural labourers.
- Participation and development of female labourers in agricultural sector.
- Dual role of females in agriculture and house hold affairs.

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